

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

- a<sup>1</sup>
1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a respiratory distress syndrome in a mammal, comprising administering a therapeutically ~~effect~~ effective amount of an agent comprising an intracellular calcium chelator that activates surfactant secretion without increasing the cytosolic free calcium concentration  $[(Ca^{+2})_i]$  in said mammal.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said intracellular calcium chelator is BAPTA-AM.

- a<sup>2</sup>
4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein BAPTA-AM is between 25 and 100  $\mu$ M.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said agent ~~comprises inducing an enhanced~~ enhances secretion of surfactant from type II pneumocytes.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said agent acts by altering an endoplasmic reticulum free calcium concentration  $[(Ca^{+2})_1]$  in type II pneumocytes.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said agent is administered by an aerosol, nebulization or liquid instillation.

- a<sup>3</sup>
8. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting a respiratory distress syndrome in a mammal, comprising administering a therapeutically ~~effect~~ effective amount of an

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agent comprising an intracellular calcium chelator that activates surfactant secretion without increasing the cytosolic free calcium concentration ( $[Ca^{+2}]_i$ ) in said mammal.

9. (Cancelled)

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10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9, 8 wherein said intracellular calcium chelator is BAPTA-AM.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein BAPTA-AM is between 25 and 100  $\mu$ M.

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12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 8, wherein said agent ~~comprises inducing an enhanced~~ enhances secretion of surfactant from type II pneumocytes.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein said agent enhances secretion of surfactant from type II pneumocytes.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein said agent acts by altering an endoplasmic reticulum free calcium concentration ( $[Ca^{+2}]_i$ ) in type II pneumocytes.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein said agent is administered by an aerosol, nebulization or liquid instillation.